अभ्रक और अभ्रक उत्पादों का निर्यात गैर-सरकारी निर्यातकों के अतिरिक्त एम एम टी सी की एक सहायक कंपनी, मिटको द्वारा किया जाता है । वर्ष 1990–91 के दौरान अभ्रक और अभ्रक उत्पादों के निर्यात में मिटको और गैर-सरकारी निर्यातकों का हिस्सा निम्नलिखित रहा :

मिटको द्वारा निर्यात 18.16 करोड़ रुपये

गैर सरकारी निर्यातकों द्वारा निर्यात 33.37 करोड़ रुपये

Share of Agricultural Products in Exports

1749. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the share of agricultural products in the total exports at present;

(b) what is the share of State Trading Corporation in the total exports and its value as well as the share of agricultural products in the same; and

(c) what steps are being taken to boost exports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) and (b) The following statement shows the overall exports from India, STC's share in it and the details regarding export of agricultural commodities:

(Rs. crores)

Period	Total Export	Export by STC
1990-91	32527.28	368.79
1991-92 (April-Aug.)	15039.81	162.79

Period	Export of Agricul-tural products	Export of agricultural products by STC
1990-91	3724.94	153.88
1991-92 (April-Aug.)	1937.04	123.55

(c) The Government introduced a package of trade policy reforms aimed at strengthening of export incentives, eliminating substantial volume of import licensing and optimal import compression. REP licences have been replaced by a new instrument named Exim Scrips. These will be the means of obtaining access to certain categories of import of raw materials, components and spares. The system of advance licensing as an instrument of export promotion has also been strengthened. Government have decided to allow established exporters to open foreign currency accounts in approved banks and allow established exporters to open raise external credits, pay for export related imports from such accounts and credit export proceeds to such accounts. Besides, Government have taken other steps which include reducing controls through licensing, simplification of procedures for export, activisation of Board of Trade, bilateral discussion with selected countries, inter-action with national organisations of trade and industry, etc.

Cadre Review of Central Trade service

@1750. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cadre review of Central Trade Service has not taken place since its inception;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken to place the matter before the Cadre Review Committee and the time frame allocated for the same purpose?

@Previously Unstarred Question 1448, transferred from the 5th December, 1991.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Formation of Central Trade Service (CTS) was notified in 1977 and its initial constitution was made in 1979 by induction of eligible Departmental Officers in the service. Direct recruitment to the service took place in December 1986 for the first time. In July 1985 a high level Committee was constituted in the Ministry of Commerce to consider the question of future of the Export Promotion (EP) Cadre of the Ministry. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Committee to merge the EP Cadre with the CTS, the Government decided to undertake the cadre review of the CTS only when a clear picture emerged after the proposed changes. Orders were issued in December 1988 merging EP Cadre with the CTS. As a result of these changes, the total sanctioned strength of the service was raised from 171 to 218.

Cadre review proposals were thereafter prepared in the Ministry in consultation with CCI&E and are being processed in consultation with the Department of Personnel and Training. In the meantime, there have been substantial changes in the trade policy which necessitated restructuring of the role of CCI&E. In view of these developments the cadre review proposals are being recast.

Press Conference on Uruguay Round of Gatt negotiations and Patent Laws.

1751. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer of Unstarred Question 381 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th November, 1991 and state:

(a) whether a Press Conference was taken by the Members of Parliament and eminent citizens of the country on September 19, 1991 on Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations and Patent Laws;

(b) what are the issues stated in the Press Release by the Members of Parliament; and

(c) what is Government's view-point on these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The statement issued to the Press raises issues pertaining to the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, particularly in the areas of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, Trade-Related Investment Measures and Services. According to the statement, the industrialised countries are seeking major changes in the economic laws and policies of developing countries in respect of the agricultural, industrial and services sectors as well as an onerous patent regime. The statement expresses concerns regarding proposals for the removal of trade barriers in goods and services. The statement urges Government not to compromise India's economic sovereignty on these issues or agree to any changes in economic laws and policies under pressure.

Government's view-point on these issues is reflected in India's stand in the Uruguay Round negotiations. On Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), India's stand has been that sufficient flexibility must be provided in any multilateral agreement to take into account the developmental and technological needs and public policy objectives of developing countries. In the case of India, this is particularly relevant in the area of patents on account of our concerns regarding food security and access to medicines and health care at affordable prices.